

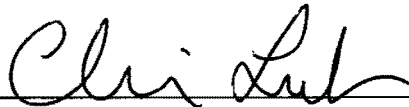
**Teaching Travel: A Tool for Teachers**

**An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)**

**By**

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chris Luke", is written over a horizontal line.

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Abstract

As a new teacher, I realize the importance of preparing for and planning units in advance. Planning takes time and is often overlooked, causing lessons to be less effective than they could be. In order to help teachers with the planning process in the hopes to give students more meaningful and helpful lessons, I created a six-week unit plan that gives French teachers all the tools they will need to teach about travel in Francophone countries. Along with the plans that are divided by week, I have included several resources that will enable teachers to personalize the unit and take it in their own direction. The unit is completely online and accessible to French teachers everywhere giving them the opportunity to use it as an instructional tool.

Acknowledgements

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One of the most important parts of being a successful teacher is planning prior to teaching a lesson or a unit. Pre planning enables teachers to be prepared and ready for the lesson being taught. When lessons have been planned enough in advance, teachers have more time to become comfortable with the material and can do more outside research if necessary to make them as comfortable with the content as possible prior to teaching. This six-week unit on travel was created to give teachers a tool to use in their instruction, and to aid with the planning process.

This site gives teachers six weeks worth of lesson plans that focus on teaching travel to students planning on going to Francophone countries. Within the lesson plans are a list of materials that the teacher will need to have available in order to successfully teach the lesson, objectives that state what the students will be able to accomplish by the end of the lesson, and procedures explaining how each lesson will be taught. These three aspects of the lesson provide a working skeleton that provides enough for a teacher to successfully teach the lesson, but it also leaves room for a teacher to change or expand upon the information as much as he or she sees fit.

The unit was created to expand over six weeks, at one hour a day, to give the teachers and students the time to go in depth with the most important aspects of traveling abroad. The unit is planned in a way that teachers, if they want, can alter the plans to make the unit shorter or longer based on time and preference. The unit is made to be used in a classroom during the day, or as an additional class in the evening for learners of all ages.

The first week in the unit plan focuses on the Francophone countries themselves. Adding in an aspect of geography, the students will have an opportunity to see where

French is actually spoken throughout the world. Not only will this give the students a better idea of exactly how many French-speaking people there are, but it also gives them ideas of new places where they could travel. Three of the lessons focus on an individual city. Each of these cities is located in a different country and continent. The focus put on each city individually gives the students a chance to see what is important to research about a city before traveling there.

The second week in the unit focuses more on the cultural aspects of traveling in Francophone countries. The first few lessons focus on going to the market, a restaurant, and shopping in stores. Included in these lessons are aspects of the culture that first time travelers would not expect, but are extremely helpful to know before traveling to these countries. Also included in these lessons are helpful vocabulary words and phrases that are very useful to know before entering these situations while traveling. The second week of the unit on travel also focuses on transportation while traveling. From subways, to trains, to busses, transportation is very important when traveling abroad. The information found in the unit on transportation will ready the students for getting from place to place while traveling.

Week three of the unit created on travel focuses on the more obvious differences in culture, but these are the differences that are sometimes overlooked. Some of these differences include money conversion and official time. Two lessons this week focus on reading schedules and using official time instead of the 12-hour time Americans are used to. This is an important difference that may seem like an easy concept to grasp, but can be a little overwhelming when traveling. Money conversion is another main worry of

most travelers. This week focuses on the how, where, when, and why of exchanging money.

Week four focuses on the basics of the beginning stages of planning a trip abroad. Some of the topics covered include deciding where to go, planning an itinerary, and making reservations. Also during this week, the students are working with technology when planning their travel budgets. One of the most important lessons covered in week four is the lesson on dealing with and being aware of culture shock. Culture shock is a aspect of traveling abroad that many people don't deal with until after they have arrived. However, if prepared for in advance, culture shock can be less of an issue, making time abroad more enjoyable from the beginning.

Week five also focuses on more planning aspects of the trip. Lessons in this week include making daily plans, preparing for jet lag, and what to do upon arrival. Some of the more important lessons deal with traveling across country lines and what to bring and what to expect at customs, which is a very foreign topic to many travelers. Also included in this week is how to communicate with home while abroad. Whether it is through the phone, the Internet, or the mail, the students are instructed on how to get in touch with family, friends, and others over seas.

Week six is the last week in the unit plan. This week ties up all loose ends and answers any last questions the students have about traveling. During this week, the students will learn tips on health and safety while abroad, tips on what and how to pack, and useful vocabulary they might need to know. The last day of the week, the students are expected to use all of the information they have accumulated throughout the unit and actually plan their trips.

Included in each lesson in the six-week unit are teaching styles that focus on different types of learners and learning styles. Each student learns in a different way, whether it is through group work, visual aids, or practicing on their own, the more diverse the teaching styles are, the more learners will take from the lessons. The lessons in this unit are based on teaching to learners with very diverse styles of learning. For example, lessons that include group work are tailored for those students who learn the best through collaborative learning. Lessons that include direct teacher instruction are made for those students who learn the best by listening and by learning through models. By including diverse lessons of such as these, learners of all kids will be able to succeed by using their strengths in their learning.

This website on teaching travel is also an interactive site that helps teachers find the extra resources they need to make these lessons their own. Included in the site are links to useful books that will help the teachers, and the students, make the lessons more effective. If the teachers are interested in any of the books mentioned on the site, they are all linked to sites at which the books can be purchased. Teachers can also find links to help with obtaining a passport, money conversions, time differences, and maps of Francophone countries. All of these resources are included to give the teachers the extra information they need to expand their own personal content knowledge, or include in their own interpretations of the lessons.

This six-week, online unit plan on traveling to Francophone countries was created as a tool for teachers. The plans are meant to be altered based on the teacher and the students being taught. However, the lessons are also designed to be taught as they are found on the site with no changes being made. Through incorporating different teaching

styles and providing resources for teachers who are planning to teach a lesson on travel, this online unit plan provides everything a teacher needs to teach a successful unit on travel.

This website can be found at [klrailing.iweb.bsu.edu/portfolio](http://klrailing.iweb.bsu.edu/portfolio), under the “Teaching Travel” Tab.

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